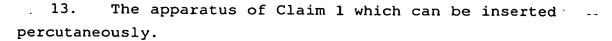
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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. An apparatus for the repair of a cardiovascular valve having leaflets comprising a grasper capable of grabbing and coapting the leaflets of the valve.
- 5 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, where the valve to be repaired is a cardiac valve.
 - 3. The apparatus of Claim 2, where the valve to be repaired is a mitral heart valve.
- 4. The apparatus of Claim 3, where the patient suffers 10 from mitral regurgitation.
 - 5. The apparatus of Claim 2, where the valve to be repaired is an aortic valve.
 - 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the patient suffers from aortic insufficienty.
- 7. The apparatus of Claim 1, which comprises a coaptor to coapt the valve leaflets with a fastener.
 - 8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the grasper has a distal end comprising a multiplicity of jaws which are freely movable about a joint to permit a range of motion of said jaws when the apparatus is manipulated by an operator.
 - 9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the grasper end is removable from the apparatus.
 - 10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the grasper distal end is disposable.
- 25 11. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the coaptor is adjunctive to, and capable of operating in concert with, the grasper distal end.
 - 12. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the coaptor is separate from the grasper distal end.



- 14. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the grasper is capable of adjusting the leaflets of the valve to obtain optimal coaptation.
 - 15. The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein the jaws of the grasper can be independently manipulated to ensure optimal valve leaflet apposition.
- 16. An apparatus for the repair of a cardiovascular

 valve, comprising a grasper having two jaws each having a
 closure member removably attached thereto wherein each
 closure member has a proximal end and the grasper also
 comprises a positioning member that is capable of positioning
 a binding member around the closure member proximal ends to

 secure the closure members together to coapt leaflets of the
 cardiovascular valve
- 17. A method of repairing a heart valve in a patient suffering from regurgitation or insufficiency wherein an apparatus of Claim 1 is inserted into a patient's heart, the grasper is used to grasp and immobilize the leaflets of the valve, and a fastener is inserted to coapt the leaflets.
 - 18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the apparatus is inserted into the heart through the chest via a thorascope.
- 19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the apparatus is 25 inserted through the jugular vein.
 - 20. The method of Claim 17, wherein the apparatus is inserted through the femoral artery and advanced percutaneously.
- 21. The method of Claim 17, wherein the heart valve is 30 a mitral valve or an aortic valve.
 - 22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the heart valve is

a mitral valve.

- 23. The method of Claim 21, wherein the heart valve is an aortic valve.
- 24. The method of Claim 17 for repairing a mitral valve in a patient suffering from mitral valve regurgitation wherein the leaflets of the mitral valve are grasped and immobilized by jaws of the grasper and a fastener is inserted into the immobilized mitral valve leaflets to coapt the leaflets.
- 10 25. The method of Claim 17 for repairing an aortic valve in a patient suffering from aortic valve insufficiency wherein the leaflets of the aortic valve are grasped and immoblized by jaws of the grasper and a fastener is inserted into the immobolized aortic valve leaflets to coapt the 15 leaflets.
 - 26. A method of repairing a heart valve in a patient suffering from regurgitation or insufficiency comprising: inserting an apparatus of Claim 1 into a patient's

heart;

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grasping the leaflets of the heart valve;
immobilizing said leaflets of the heart valve;
inserting a fastener into the patient's heart in
proximity to the grasped valve leaflets;

coapting the leaflets of the said heart valve

25 together by affixing the fastener; and

removing the grasper while leaving the fastener in

place.

- 27. The method of Claim 26, wherein the patient suffers from mitral regurgitation and a mitral valve is repaired.
- 30 28. The method of Claim 26 wherein the patient suffers from aortic insufficiency and an aortic valve is repaired.

